What is claimed is:

1.   A file management system for managing electronic files on one or more volumes,
the file management system comprising:

a volume manager that manages the electronic files and metadata relating to such
files on one or more volumes; and

means for organizing the files based on the metadata;

wherein the metadata includes automatically generated metadata and user defined
metadata.

2.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a user interface that enables a user to
view and manage, within the file management system, the metadata associated with the
files, the user interface:

graphically displaying information about the files and the metadata; and

enabling the user to manipulate the files and the metadata.

3.   The system of claim 2, wherein the metadata comprises one or more tags
associated with at least one of the files.

4.   The system of claim 3, wherein the one or more tags comprises a name and a
value.

5.   The system of claim 3, wherein the user interface comprises means for enabling a
user to view tags.

6.   The system of claim 3, wherein the files are classified and organized by the one or more tags.

7.   The system of claim 1, wherein representations of a single file can appear in more than one folder.

8.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the name of a folder is used to perform a query to dynamically determine contents of the folder.

9.   The system of claim 8, further comprising metadata associated with the folders

10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the metadata associated with the folders comprises one or more tags associated with at least one of the folders.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the one or more tags comprises a name and a value.

12.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders include dynamic folders.

13.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders are automatically updated in real time.

14.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders are persistent.

15.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders include various folder types including one or more of Query, Search, Merge, Magnetic, and Typed.

16.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders include Query folders, wherein the Query folders perform queries based on tags that encapsulate search criteria and matching objects are associated with the Query folder.

17.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders include Search folders, wherein the Search folders perform free text searches and wherein matching objects are associated with the folder.

18.   The system of claim 23, wherein the Search folders are integrated with at least one search engine.

19.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders include Merge folders that combine content of two or more other folders.

20.   The system of claim 19, wherein the folders are combined using Boolean logic or otherwise.

21.   The system of claim 19, further comprising a merge list of folders to be merged.

22.   The system of claim 19, wherein the merge occurs in real-time.

23.   The system of claim 19, wherein changes in related folders results in changes to the Merge folder.

24.   The system of claim 19, further comprising the use of a combination of Query and Search Folders with Merge Folders.

25.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders include Magnetic folders that disable removal if a file ever matches a query associated with the folder.

26.   The system of claim 1, further comprising folders to facilitate the categorization of content, wherein the folders include Typed folders that only store and retain certain types of files.

27.   The system of claim 1, wherein the volume manager manages folders and metadata relating to such folders on one or more volumes.

28.   The system of claim 27, wherein the volume manager includes a slot object that manages information associated with a name of a file or folder.

29.   The system of claim 27, wherein the volume manager includes an entry object that manages at least one of a tag and an attribute of an associated file or folder.

30.   The system of claim 27, wherein the volume manager maintains a slot object and entry object for each file or folder on the one or more volumes.

31.   The system of claim 30, wherein the slot object manages information associated with a name of the file or folder.

32.   The system of claim 30, wherein the entry object manages at least one of a tag and an attribute of the file or folder.

33.   The system of claim 6, wherein the one or more tags maintain relationships among the files.

34.   The system of claim 1, further comprising an XML interface through which information associated with the files can be extracted.

35.   The system of claim 34, further comprising an XML interface through which metadata associated with the files can be extracted.